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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 November 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to enclose herewith resolution No. 6257 dated 10 November 2002 concerning Iraq, adopted by the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers of the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session, held in Cairo (see annex).

I would appreciate if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to this letter and its annex and have both circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

02-68711 (E) 121102

Annex to the letter dated 11 November 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Evolution of the question of Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session on Sunday, 10 November 2002, at the headquarters of the Secretary-General to consider the evolution of the situation and the serious prospects with which the Arab region is confronted,

Having studied the evolution of the question of Iraq in the light of resolution 1441 (2002) adopted by the Security Council on 8 November 2002,

Considering its adherence to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law,

On the basis of the attachment of the Arab States to the Charter of the League of Arab States and to all its agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the resolutions of the Council of the League, in particular resolution 227 adopted at the summit meeting in Beirut on 28 March 2002 and resolution 6216 of the Council of Ministers of the League of 5 September 2002;

2. After having considered Security Council resolution 1441 (2002), *welcomes* the provisions whereby the Security Council is the competent authority to evaluate the reports of the inspectors, and takes into consideration the statements made before the Security Council according to which that resolution does not constitute a basis for recourse to the use of military force against Iraq, and *urges* the States permanent members of the Security Council which have given reassurances to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab member of the Security Council, to give an undertaking that the resolution does not constitute a pretext for unleashing war against Iraq and does not provide for automatic recourse to a military operation;

3. *Welcomes* the unconditional acceptance by Iraq of the return of the international inspectors and urges continued cooperation between the United Nations and Iraq with a view to resolving all the outstanding problems by peaceful means in order to lift the sanctions against Iraq, put an end to the embargo imposed against it and end the suffering of the Iraqi people;

4. *Urges* the teams of inspectors to carry out their mission with professionalism and complete neutrality and objectivity, and not to engage in any acts of provocation, in order to ensure the credibility of their actions, and also urges the participation of Arab experts in the inspection teams;

5. *Reaffirms* that the Arab States remain attached to the preservation of the security and safety of Iraq, to its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and also to the preservation of the security, safety and sovereignty of all the Arab States, and *affirms* that the Arab States continue to reject totally a strike against Iraq, considering that such a strike would constitute a threat to the national security of all the Arab States;

6. *Appeals* to the Security Council, in its further action aimed at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, to constrain Israel to implement the legitimate international resolutions and to urge it to implement without delay paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) concerning the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, and, in particular, the elimination of Israeli weapons of mass destruction which constitute a serious threat to the security of the Arab nations and to international peace and security;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and to maintain contact with the Iraqi Government and the United Nations and the other parties concerned in this matter;

8. *Extends* the session of the Council with a view to following the evolution of the situation and any new developments concerning this question.

Resolution 6257
10 November 2002